

BY-LAWS
of the
MIDDLEBOROUGH
FIRE DISTRICT



ADOPTED
December 27, 1916

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ARTICLE I. OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The officers of the Middleborough Fire District shall consist of a Chief Engineer, four Assistant Engineers, a Clerk, a Treasurer, and Auditor (who shall hold no other District office), a Prudential Committee of three persons, and a Board of Water Commissioners of three persons.

The Chief Engineer and four Assistant Engineers, the Clerk, the Treasurer, and the Auditor shall be chosen annually at the annual meeting to serve for the ensuing year or until their successors are chosen and qualified.

At the annual meeting in 1918, three persons shall be elected by ballot to constitute the Prudential Committee to hold office as follows: One until the expiration of three years, one until the expiration of two years, one until the expiration of one year, from the first day of January, 1919, and at each annual meeting thereafter one such Committee man shall be elected by ballot for a term of three years.

The Board of Water Commissioners shall consist of three persons, one of whom shall be elected by ballot at each annual meeting for a term of three years.

Any vacancies occurring in any of the above offices may be filled at any legal meeting called for the purpose.

The term of office for the officers of the District shall commence with the first day of January next after the annual meeting in December.

SECTION 2. The officers of the District shall receive respectively for their services such compensation as the District may determine at its annual meeting.

ARTICLE II. MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Meetings of the District shall be called by the Clerk when requested in writing by the Board of Water Commissioners, the Prudential Committee, the Chief Engineer, or two Assistant Engineers, or by seven voters of the District, and he shall give notice of the same by posting written notifications in at least six public places in the District not less than seven days prior to the meeting, or by publishing the same in a newspaper printed within the District, which notification shall briefly state the purposes of the meeting. Meetings may also be called on application of seven or more legal voters in said Fire District by a warrant from the Selectmen of Middleboro on such notice as may be prescribed therein.

SECTION 2. The annual meeting shall be holden within the District on the third Wednesday in December in each year.

ARTICLE III. FINANCES

SECTION 1. The financial year shall begin the first day of January in each year and end with the last day of December in each year.

SECTION 2. No District notes, bonds, or script shall be issued by the Treasurer unless authorized by a vote of the District: and all such notes, bonds, or script shall be signed by the Treasurer of the Fire District, and countersigned as follows, to wit: Notes, bonds,

or script issued on account of the Water Works of the District by the Water Commissioners: and all other notes, bonds, or script by the Prudential Committee of the District.

SECTION 3. No money shall be paid from the treasury of the District, except notes, bonds, or script issued as above provided, and interest on the same, without the written approval or order of the Prudential Committee in the case of bills belonging to the Fire Department, or of the Water Commissioners in the case of bills belonging to the Water Works Department.

SECTION 4. The Auditor shall audit the vouchers and accounts of all officers of the District and present a written or printed annual report to the District.

ARTICLE IV.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

SECTION 1. The Fire Department shall consist of a Chief Engineer, four Assistant Engineers, Fire Police, and as many Engine Men, Hose Men, and Hook-and-Ladder Men as shall be necessary to manage the Fire Apparatus within the District, not exceeding the number allowed by law.

Each member of the Fire Department shall be furnished with a badge, which shall be the property of the District, and which shall be worn by him at all times when he is on duty.

SECTION 2. The Engineers shall choose one of the Assistant Engineers to be their clerk and three shall form a quorum for the transaction of business. They shall appoint at the beginning of their term of office the Engine Men, Hose Men, Hook-and-Ladder Men, and Fire Police. They shall have the general superintendence and control of all the Fire Apparatus and Hydrants (in case of fire, and for all purposes of the Department), Houses and Furniture belonging to the District, and over the officers and members of the sev-

eral Companies attached to the Department, and all other persons present at fires, and may make from time to time such Rules and Regulations for the government and discipline of the Department, and preservation of order in time of fire, as they may think expedient, said Rules and Regulations not being repugnant to the Laws of the Commonwealth.

SECTION 3. Whenever there is a fire in the District, it shall be the duty of the Engineers to go at once to the fire, take complete charge of and direct the work of the extinguishment of the fire, the removal and protection of property and any demolitions that they may think necessary, the preservation of order and the compelling of assistance from persons present. It shall also be the duty of the Engineers to preserve order in the Companies whenever the said Companies are on duty.

SECTION 4. The Chief Engineer shall have sole command at fires over all members of the Fire Department, including the other Engineers and over all other persons present, and shall direct all proper measures for the extinguishment of fires, protection of property and preservation of order and observance of the Law.

In the absence of the Chief Engineer, the first Engineer present shall have sole command and shall execute all the duties of the Chief Engineer.

SECTION 5. The term of service for members of the Fire Department shall commence on the first day of January next succeeding the annual election, and shall continue one year, or until others are chosen or appointed in their places.

SECTION 6. It shall be the duty of the Chief Engineer to keep himself thoroughly informed of the condition of the fire apparatus attached to the District, and the several Hydrants, Engines, Hose, and Hook-and-Ladder Companies, and report thereon at the annual meeting of the District: and also under the direction

of the Prudential Committee, from time to time, make all necessary repairs or additions to the Fire Apparatus and buildings connected with the same. The report of the Chief Engineer shall be published in the annual printed report of the officers of the Fire District.

It shall be the duty of the Chief Engineer to inspect or cause to be inspected by Fire Department Officers or Members, as often as may be necessary, but not less than twice a year, all buildings, premises and public thoroughfares, except the interiors of private dwellings, for the purpose of ascertaining and causing to be corrected any conditions liable to cause fire, or any violations of the provisions or intent of any by-laws or regulations affecting the fire hazard.

Whenever any officer or member shall find in any building, or upon any premises or other place, combustible or explosive matter or dangerous accumulation of rubbish or unnecessary accumulation of waste paper, boxes, shavings, or any other highly inflammable materials especially liable to fire, and which is so situated as to endanger property, he shall forthwith report the same to the Chief Engineer who shall at once order the removal of the same, and take all necessary action in accordance with any Statutes or regulations affecting the situation that may be necessary.

SECTION 7. Each of the Companies appointed by the Board of Engineers shall choose a Foreman, and Two Assistant Foremen, and their Clerk at their first meeting in January in each year. The Captain, two Sergeants, and the Clerk of the Fire Police shall be chosen at the first meeting of the Fire Police in January.

SECTION 8. The Engine Men, Hose, Hook-and-Ladder Men, and Fire Police, may organize themselves into distinct Companies, elect their necessary Officers, and establish such Rules, Regulations and By-Laws as

may be approved by the Board of Engineers. And in case of rejection by the Board of Engineers of any of the Officers elected by said Companies, their names shall be returned to the Company who shall select another person for approval, and these Officers when approved shall hold their places until removed, or others are elected in their stead, and shall receive such compensation for their services as the District shall from time to time determine.

SECTION 9. Whenever at a fire any person present at said fire refuses to obey orders of any Engineer, it shall be the duty of the Board of Engineers immediately to prosecute the person so offending.

SECTION 10. Any officer or member of the Fire Department who shall wilfully neglect or refuse to perform his duty or shall be guilty of disorderly conduct, or disobedience to his superiors in office, may for such offence be dismissed from the Department.

SECTION 11. At an alarm of fire it shall be the duty of such of the Fire Police of the District as may be selected by the Engineers, to go at once to the fire and there under the direction of the Engineers preserve the peace, prevent theft and the destruction of property, and remove all suspected persons.

SECTION 12. All the companies of the Fire Department shall be furnished with a copy of these By-Laws, and copies of this Article shall be framed and placed in their respective houses; and it shall be the duty of the officers and members of the Department to conform to all the requisitions and perform all duties therein required.

ARTICLE V.

WATER WORKS DEPARTMENT

SECTION 1. The Board of Water Commissioners shall have the care, custody, management and control of all property, real and personal, belonging to the District, except the property placed under the control

of the Board of Engineers as provided by Article IV., Section 2, of these By-Laws; shall have authority to determine and establish from time to time a tariff of water rate, and make rules and regulations for the introduction and use of water.

All services shall be metered, except that the Water Commissioners may, if they think best, contract with the Town to furnish water to be used by the Highway Department, for fountains, watering-troughs, steam-rollers and other uses, without having it metered. Said Commissioners shall certify all bills against the District contracted by their authority. Said Commissioners shall annually make a full written report of their doings and expenditures.

SECTION 2. The Board of Water Commissioners or their assistants may enter upon the premises of any water taker at reasonable times to examine the apparatus to ascertain the use to which the water is applied, or to find or stop any waste. They shall in all suitable ways exercise a careful supervision to protect the interests of the Water Works.

ARTICLE VI.

CLERK

SECTION 1. The Clerk, in addition to the duties of his office required by law, shall keep on file all reports, certificates, and inventories submitted to the District by an officer or committee thereof, which said record shall be open at all reasonable times to the inhabitants of the District qualified to vote in District affairs.

ARTICLE VII.

TREASURER

SECTION 1. The Treasurer shall be required to give bond in such sum as the Prudential Committee and Water Commissioners may require, with sureties to their satisfaction, for the faithful performance of his

official duties. He shall receive all sums of money belonging to the District, and pay over and account for the same according to its order, or to the order of the Prudential Committee, or Water Commissioners as provided by Article III., Section 3.

He shall also keep a regular account of all moneys received and expended by him, and submit a detailed report immediately after the close of the fiscal year, and at such other times as the District may require.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at the annual meeting or at any other meeting regularly called for the purpose by a majority vote of those present voting.

I hereby certify that the article in the warrant for the annual meeting of the Middleboro Fire District under which the above By-Laws were adopted was as follows, viz:—

Article 7. To see if the District will vote to alter, amend, revise, or add to its By-Laws or rescind or repeal the whole or any part thereof, or adopt any new By-Laws and act anything thereon.

I further certify that pursuant to the warrant the meeting of said District was duly held December 20, 1916, and was regularly adjourned to December 27, 1916.

I further certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the By-Laws adopted by the Middleboro Fire District at said meeting, held December 27, 1916.

[SEAL]

JOHN F. PERRY,
Clerk Middleboro Fire District.



